

# Parent Bulletin

6th November 2020



Robert  
May's  
School

*A community seeking excellence for all*

## **Thought for the week: Remembrance**

**Word of the week: Psephology** - noun referring to the study of elections. From Greek psēphos 'pebble, vote' - from the ancient Greeks' practice of using pebbles to cast votes.

**Book of the week: Mohinder's War** by Bali Rai

Dear Families,

As many of you are now aware, we had notification of a single confirmed case of Covid-19 today in the student body. Separate Public Health England letters have been sent out to affected families, and a general Public Health England update letter has been sent to all families. I know you will join with me in hoping that all affected families are able to stay well and get through the isolation period in good form.

Following the Prime Minister's announcement about a new short lock-down, and further advice and guidance from the Department for Education and the Government, I am reaching out to you today to confirm several details.

**Face coverings:** all students and staff on site should wear face coverings at all times when on the school site, even outdoors, because the outdoor spaces are communal areas and the government has specified this in its latest updates. The only times when face coverings do not need to be worn are in classrooms when lessons are taking place.

Students and staff who are exempt will not be challenged and will be treated with sensitivity.

**Face coverings on school-specific transport:** students should wear their face coverings at all times when travelling on school-specific and public transport. Students who are exempt will not be challenged and should be treated with sensitivity.

**Forgot to bring a face covering in?** The school does not always carry spare face coverings and we are not able to afford to give away the high number of spare face-coverings that students are requesting because they have lost/forgotten them. We are preparing to keep a small stock of disposable face coverings on site for emergencies. Under our charging policy we will be asking for 40p per face covering. This needs to be given to the receptionist in correct amounts, as we do not have the facility to give change. Please, *please* can you ensure that your child has an appropriate face covering and a spare, for using at all times on the school site, except when in lessons. If there is an occasional problem with this, please make sure they have 40p ready to buy a spare in reception.

**Extra curricular activities from Monday 9th November:** it has been quite a challenge to interpret the government's guidance on this. We have had to make a decision based on what we know and how we can best match what we think the guidance means. Please see clarifications below.

**The following extra-curricular activities WILL be running:**

- All Year 11 GCSE subject examination revision sessions. This includes socially distanced practical examination preparation in drama and music
- All Resourced Provision after-school Homework time
- Year 9 and Year 10 Science intervention sessions (by invitation only)
- Any/all separate year group Maths intervention/support groups.

**The following extra curricular activities will NOT be running:**

- All non-examination (Years 7-10) Sports Skills sessions
- All non-examination (Years 7-10) Performing Arts sessions (Drama/Music)
- Year 7 Music ensemble
- After-school Library facility (any/all year groups)
- Other year groups (Years 7-10) non-examination Design Engineering competition work.

It is upsetting for us, because we know how much students have enjoyed their non-examination after-school activities, and we are keen on them too! However, when you think about how track and trace works, and the increase in the rate of infections in Hampshire recently, it makes sense to reduce the amount of contact with others on any given day. We have sought further clarification on extra-curricular activities from the Department of Education, and if we get this, we will be updating you.

**Community bookings/hirings:** unfortunately these have had to be cancelled until the short lock-down ends.

Thank you to all Year 7 parents and carers who have been the first to use our online remote video-call app for parent/carer consultations. It's been good to learn that the system works well. We will be using feedback to further enhance the next round of consultations which will be for Year 11 GCSE subjects. The aim is that these conversations will help set students up for success when they get to their PPET (mock) examinations in January.

Finally, grateful thanks to all families who have been so careful to monitor their own health, keep an eye on any emerging symptoms and who have extracted their own children from school, the moment they have suspected a Covid symptom in their households. We are aware of a number of very conscientious individuals who have acted quickly to ensure that the risk of Covid 19 spreading here is minimised. WE are thankful for their thoughtfulness.

Have a safe and relaxing weekend,

Joanna C West  
Headteacher

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**COVID REMINDERS:**

- **Please do not send your child to school if they have one or more of the Covid symptoms:** (high temperature, continuous new cough, loss of, or change in smell/taste). Keep your child at home. Please arrange for a Covid-19 test straight away:  
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/> Alternatively use this link: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or call 119 if you are not able to use the internet.

- **Quarantining from foreign travel:** please check carefully the latest arrangements for people travelling back to the UK from abroad: do not send your child into school if they have returned recently from a quarantine-listed country.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-how-to-self-isolate-when-you-travel-to-the-uk/coronavirus-covid-19-how-to-self-isolate-when-you-travel-to-the-uk>. Please note, there are exemptions for HM Forces families returning from exercises/deployments. Please see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-travellers-exempt-from-uk-border-rules/coronavirus-covid-19-travellers-exempt-from-uk-border-rules#defence-personnel-visiting-forces-and-government-contractors>

### **Covid-19 infections: definitions of contact:**

For information about the definitions that contact tracers use, please see this link:

[Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection who do not live with the person](#)

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### **CATERLINK**

**Menu.** Below is the link to the NEW menu for next week.

Next week our Catering Providers are on **Week 1**.

[Secondary Meal Menu \(October 2020\)](#)

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### **PERMITTED EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS**

#### **Maths Clinic**

If a student would like some help with their maths homework or would like to ask for a bit of help with something they are doing in class please do encourage them to come along as follows:

Monday after school: 2.30 - 3.30pm

Year 10: in M5

Thursday after school: 2.30 - 3.30pm

Year 7: in M3

Year 8 in M8

Year 9 in M6

Mrs Joyner, KS3 Maths Coordinator

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### **YEAR 11 REVISION AND INTERVENTION TIMETABLE 2020/2021**

Please find an **UPDATED** Year 11 Revision and Intervention Timetable:

[Year 11 Revision and Intervention Timetable 2020/2021](#)

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## CHROMEBOOKS FOR USE IN SCHOOL

For those parents who have signed up to the school's Chromebook purchase scheme, we will share details on the distribution of devices next week. Once distributed students can bring their device to school for use during lessons where the teacher has planned to incorporate appropriate devices into the lesson.

If your child already owns a Chromebook that you would like them to use it at school it must satisfy the following requirements:

- Age of the device and battery life; the device needs to be able to retain battery charge for 5 hours whilst at school.
- Insurance; the device will need to be covered under your home insurance, the school will not take responsibility for any damage, loss or theft of the device whilst at school or on route to and from school.
- Software updates: the school would need to reconfigure the software on the device so that it matches the school's network policy and has filtering software to prevent inappropriate use.
- Google Play Store; your child's device will need to already have Google Play Store.

If your child's device satisfies the above requirements please ensure the device and any associated items are clearly labelled with your child's first and surname in full and Tutor Group. They will need to bring their device to the school's IT Support office before attempting to use it in class, to enable our IT team to reconfigure the software as above.

Thank you,  
Robert May's School IT Team

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## LIBRARY NEWS

### **Library Fiction Books**

This week the Library Fiction Books have been organised into Genres. This will help your child/ children find the types of books they are looking for all in one place.

The Genres are:

- Adventure (including Action)
- Comedy
- Classics
- Crime (including Mysteries and Thrillers)
- Fantasy
- Historical
- Horror
- Science Fiction (including Dystopian)
- Real Life
- Romance

## Student Timetable for Library Use

Please remind your child/ children that they can use the Library at the following times.

Day	First Break	Second Break
Monday	Year 10	Year 11
Tuesday	Year 8	Year 9
Wednesday	Year 11	Year 10
Thursday	Year 7	Year 8
Friday	Year 9	Year 7

Many thanks,  
Mrs Bennett

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## SCIENCE REVISION RESOURCES

We have previously notified you that Science revision resources are available once again to purchase via SCOPAY. From Monday 9th November, at 12.00pm, CGP are offering a new service which should improve on the effectiveness of the department's provision for supplying resources to students. This will incur a small additional charge per item, as the sorting is done by CGP, but this will result in faster distribution to students. The overall cost is, however, still significantly cheaper than if you were to purchase the items elsewhere.

Available resources: (as previously communicated):

- KS3 revision guides (\*)
- KS4 combined science (\*). However, there is now a single pack of *combined* science revision cards which we are making available. If you have already bought the *separate* combined cards you do not need to purchase these.
- KS4 separate science. (\*)

(\*) Please note that these books are unchanged; if you have previously ordered these you do not need to reorder.

Scopay reports will be forwarded to the science department on a weekly basis and orders placed once the minimum order value is reached. If you have not yet registered for online payments with Scopay please email [finance@rmays.com](mailto:finance@rmays.com) to request a link code for your child.

**Please can students bring the relevant book to their lessons. This will help immensely as we have only a few books available in the department and these need to be quarantined after every use to protect everyone.**

Mrs Beaumont  
Senior Science Technician

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## VLE

If you or your child tries to log onto the school's VLE and you are given a web page with a 404 page not found error message this is due to the fact you are currently logged in with a personal Gmail account. Attached are details about how you can log in.

[Accessing VLE from home](#)

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## **RMS PTFA FUNDRAISING**

Easyfundraising turns your everyday online shopping into FREE donations when you use easyfundraising to shop with over 3,600 retailers such as Amazon, eBay, John Lewis, Argos, NEXT and Booking.com.

Our retailers then make a small donation to say 'thank you' and easyfundraising gives those free funds to the cause.

Please register using this unique link – just search for 'Robert Mays PTA' and click 'support us' -

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/robertmayspta-1582874283-755391685/?invite=4225V1&referral-campaign=c2s>

Plus, once you've signed up and raised £5 in donations, easyfundraising will give us an extra £5 donation.

There's no catch or hidden charges and Robert May's PTFA will be really grateful for your donations.

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## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**RMS PLANNED TERM DATES: 2020-2021** (please note, these may be subject to change, depending on Government advice)

**Please do not attempt to come onto the school site without a previously arranged appointment. Uninvited adults on the school site will be turned away.**

### **Autumn Term 2020:**

Wednesday 16th December 2020 - Last Day of Term

### **Spring Term 2021:**

Monday 4th January 2021 - CPD Day - School closed to students

Tuesday 5th January 2021 - First Day of Term

Half Term Break - 15th February 2021 - 19th February 2021

Monday 22nd February 2021 - CPD Day - School closed to students

Wednesday 31st March 2021 - Last Day of Term

### **Summer Term 2021:**

Monday 19th April 2021 - First Day of Term

Half Term Break - 31st May 2021 - 4th June 2021

Friday 25th June 2021 - CPD Day - School closed to students

Friday 23rd July 2021 - Last Day of Term

As an academy, Robert May's School does not need to follow Hampshire term-time dates. However, we know that several of our students in each year have siblings in our neighbouring community feeder schools, and so to minimise disruption we have done our best to try and match the local arrangement

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## ELEVATE EDUCATION - EXAM PREPARATION WEBINAR TUESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER

13 parents from RMS have joined the webinars so far focusing on independent study skills and time management. Many have said they have been implementing the strategies with their children at home and it's great to see they're having an impact. The next webinar is next Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November, focusing on exam preparation, a topic that I know is at the top of a lot of parents' minds! Details of the event are as follows:

**Title:** Exam Preparation

**Date:** Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November

**Time:** 6.00 – 7.00pm

**Cost:** Free

**Sign up link:** <https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/register/>

Elevate Education

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## PATIENTS PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG) NOVEMBER UPDATE

### **FLU CLINIC UPDATE**



Due to the success of the last 4 flus clinics at the Victoria Hall in Hartley Wintney and Hook Bowls Club in Hook, **this Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November** will be Whitewater Health last external flu clinic.

*The new lockdown restrictions mean that both halls have to close and are no longer able to host us after this Saturday 7th November.*

It is at **Hook Bowls Club between 8.00am-2.00pm** and anyone who has received an invitation is able to attend.

If you have received a letter or Text we strongly urge you to attend on Saturday if at all possible.

We urge all patients at risk to protect themselves from the flu with this vaccine, particularly in view of the current Covid 19 Pandemic.

The clinics are operating safely and within the current Covid guidelines, adhering to socially distancing, hand hygiene and face covering.

For those unable to attend this Saturday we will be continuing to run clinics within the surgery and we are currently working on our remote model of delivery to ensure we can administer the vaccine for those who are housebound.

If you cannot make this weekend's clinic - Please contact the surgery to enable us to reach the best delivery based on your needs.

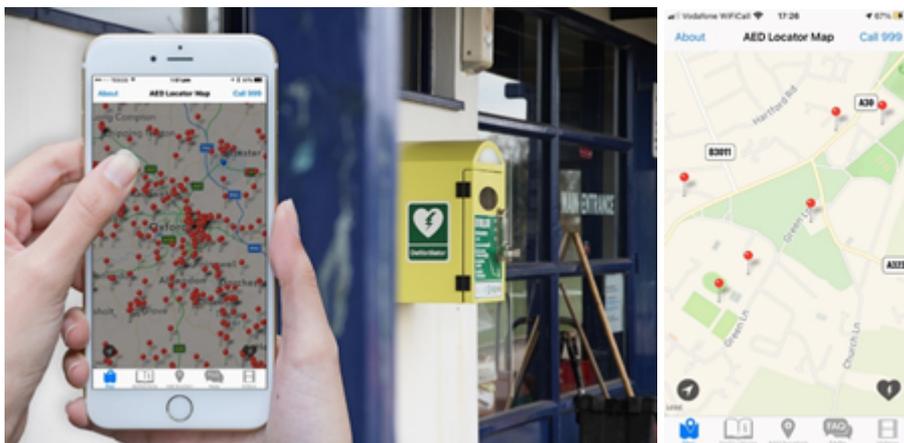
COVID continues to loom large in everything we do, you should of course remember that the NHS is open for service as usual with many of the services previously impacted nearing normal service. It is safe to visit hospitals and you should delay consulting with your doctors with medical concerns/

## Location of local Defibrillators Hook / Hartley Wintney

Save a Life APP



Save a life App



### Where is your nearest AED?

### The Savealife App on your phone will inform you

This is an amazing Android & Apple app that users can access via their smartphone or tablet.

Our app uses GPS functionality to show where the nearest AED is as well as a list of other AEDs in the area. It also features videos, CPR instructions and a section that will answer many questions about a heart attack

### Remember, the first thing to do in any real emergency is to ring 999.

Please make sure that you have the latest version of the App installed and that you regularly update the list.

This App is available for both Android and Apple Phone you can zoom into the location for detail information quick simple and easy to use throughout the UK

### Download the app and take a note of your nearest AED now

### What three words App available on Apple and Android

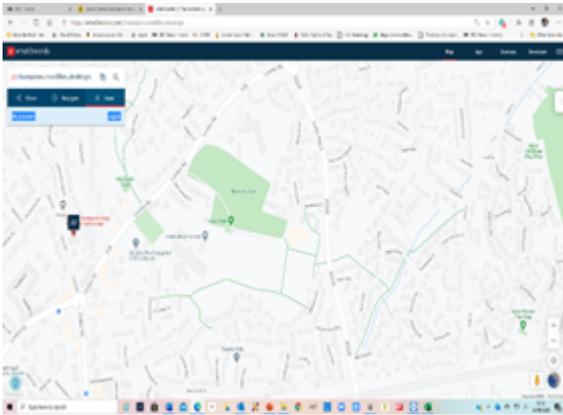
What3words is a really quick and simple way to find, share and save exact locations. The system converts GPS coordinates into 3 word addresses.

This app can assist emergency services in finding a location and is especially useful if you are off the beaten track or in a dense urban area. It is recommended by both ambulance and police service. This can be helpful in rural and busy urban areas

Many UK emergency services are now using @what3words to help find people in emergency situations. The app can give you 3 simple words to describe your exact location. Download the app to be prepared:

<https://qtrh4.app.goo.gl/KsJ8>

As an example the What3word code for the surgery in Reading Road is ///Champions.modifies.desktops



PPG Contact Details (please note we cannot deal with any medical or personal matters, contact the surgery)

Whitewaterppg@gmail.com or Tel: 01256 678671